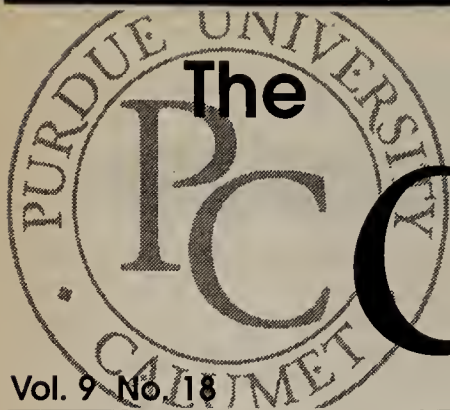




News

College students pay a high price to smoke.

See page 5

Opinion

Credibility becomes an issue for those in high profile positions.

See page 4

Entertainment

Showtime's new series, "Queer As Folk," challenges stereotypes.

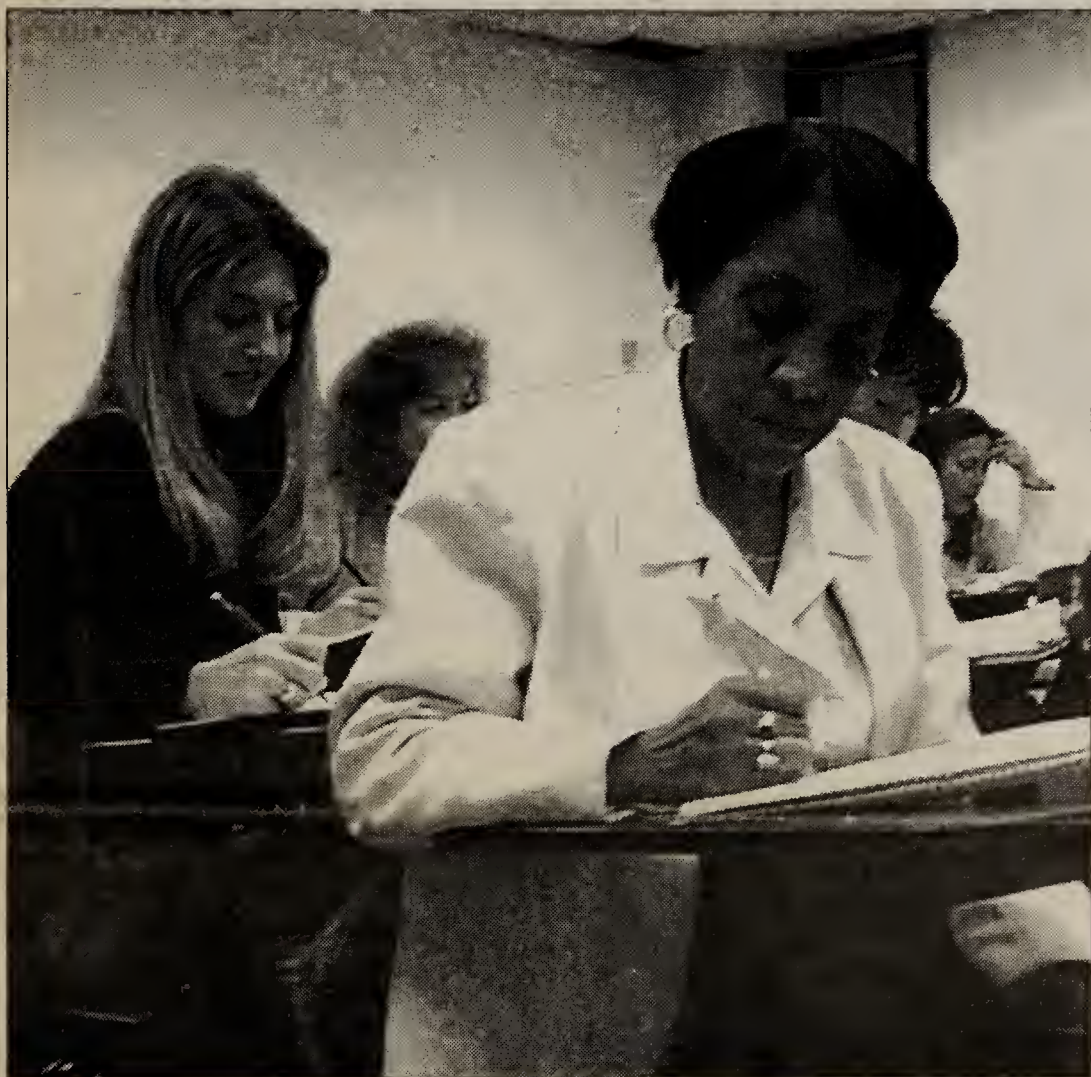
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Vol. 9 No. 18

Monday, January 29, 2001

Cheaters never win or learn



Gloria Robinson (front), a junior majoring in early childhood development, takes notes in Tamara Bottomlee's behavioral science class. "I think that cheating is wrong," Robinson said. "It's not fair to those students who have actually studied."

Photo by Anthony Pruitt

ANTHONY PRUITT
Photographer

Another 'A' on a major test from a student who has never taken notes in class, or has done the homework. It is a case known as student cheating, and a survey goes to show that nine out of every 10 students cheat at least once.

"I think that it is true (the survey); students are more worried about grades rather than the knowledge they should be receiving," Nancy O'Keefe, science laboratory coordinator, said.

In no school, be it is grade school, high school, or college, is cheating tolerated. However, it is not very easy to show that a student has cheated.

"Of course we don't put up with it. Cheating is something, though, that is very hard to prove," O'Keefe said.

Any cheating, major or minor, is reported to the dean of students, Leo Bryant and the suspected student also fails the course.

"I don't think it's right (cheating), and it is not okay under any circumstances," Christine Vavrek, mathematics, computer sciences and statistics, said.

"We report it directly to the dean of students and a failing grade is given for the course," Vavrek said.

Before taking the proper actions, to be certain of the cheating, the student is first confronted to let them know there are uncertainties as to whether or not the he or she has committed the crime.

"We would pull them off to the side and let them know there are suspicions," O'Keefe said.

There have been cases where a student may have cheated because they missed notes or lectures, or simply did not read the material.

"Of course we don't put up with it. Cheating is something, though, that is very hard to prove,"

Nancy O'Keefe, science laboratory coordinator

"Of course I have cheated once," Katie Mauch, a freshman majoring in English, said.

"It was usually on tests about chapters I didn't read, and it was information I had missed out on, but that was in high school," Mauch said.

Some students don't mind other students cheating, because the cheater is missing out on a long run of knowledge.

"I don't care if they cheat; it's their loss if they don't learn the material," Mauch said.

"Not only that, but this is college, and if they don't know it for their profession then I guess they just won't be getting a job in that particular field," Mauch said.

Credit card debt weighs heavy on students

ANN-MARIE GUZIOR
Staff Writer

Students and credit cards. One would think by the time a so-called "adult" enters college, he or she would be able to take on the responsibility of controlling their spending habits. In some incidents this is not the case.

Credit card debt is overpowering not only to those who actually have the funds to pay back their charges, but more importantly, those who cannot meet their outstanding balances.

People in the age range of 18 to 24 years old possess the most debt in the United States, according to a study on credit card debt.

A survey here on campus showed that credit cards are seen as "free cash" and students easily forget how much they have spent until

their statement comes in.

In this case it is understandable that one can forget the amount they have spent on their credit card, but it is one's responsibility to keep track of their purchases and therefore not fall in to unnecessary consumer debt.

Students on campus, on average, have a range from one to five credit cards and again they all state that the problem they have is poor budgeting on their behalf.

"Credit cards should only be issued to people who are employed,"
Arryne Boyd, PUC student

"Credit cards should only be issued to people who are employed," Arryne Boyd, a PUC student, said.

Boyd has one credit card and is also debt free.

In a recent study by colleges and universities together, there are 25 to 30 percent new students on campuses each year, which in actuality is a vendor or credit

card company's dream. Some companies are able to come to campuses to offer their specific card to students. They offer students free merchandise if they take the time to sign up for a card. The more applications they fill out, however, the worse it looks on a credit report.

Those who apply for credit cards just after turning 18 do not have to go through a difficult process in order to receive a card.

Not only do credit card companies not have very much information about applicants, there is no minimum income requirement for college students to receive a card. With stronger restrictions, students might be forced to focus more on our purchases and to budget more efficiently.

For those who do not know the consequences of not keeping track of their bills and cannot pay them, their credit may be made worse by having to file Chapter 7 bankruptcy.



Photo provided by The PUC Photo Club

An on-campus survey showed that credit cards are seen as "free cash" and students easily forget how much they have spent until their statement comes in.

Support the Lakers. Attend the Homecoming game Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. A dance will follow.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

It's worth the effort!

The quest to obtain financial assistance requires an investment of time and effort on your part—but the return on your investment can be substantial!

There are forms to fill out—most notably the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

There are deadlines to meet—most importantly, March 1, for submitting a completed FAFSA.

It's the FAFSA that is used to determine the amount of need-based federal, state and institutional assistance for which you qualify for the 2001-2002 academic year.

There also are scholarship searches on which to embark. Scholarships may be based on academic strength (merit) alone or a combination of need and merit. Scholarship donors identify the criteria to be met by would-be recipients. **March 1 is also the deadline to submit a Purdue University Calumet's Merit Awards Application.**

In short, the process of attaining financial assistance requires your active involvement and commitment. Many of you can attest to the fact that the process is worth the effort.

55 percent of our students receive \$15 million in financial assistance

About 55 percent of Purdue Calumet students receive some \$15 million annually in financial assistance—based on need and/or merit.

But unless current students, prospective students and their families follow through appropriately on the financial aid application process, they likely will miss out on valuable funding for their education.

To provide guidance and assistance to families in their pursuit of financial assistance, February has been designated Financial Aid Awareness Month. The cornerstone event of Financial Aid Awareness Month is College Goal Sunday, a statewide initiative scheduled Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.

Purdue Calumet is hosting two College Goal Sunday sites—one on campus in Gyte 103, the other at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Merrillville, where many of our south Lake County classes are held.

Throughout February, this *Administration Update* space will be devoted to providing helpful financial aid information for students in their efforts to pursue financial assistance for next academic year.

Click onto the Office of Financial Aid home page

In the meantime, we suggest that you click onto the Office of Financial Aid home page from the Purdue Calumet web site:

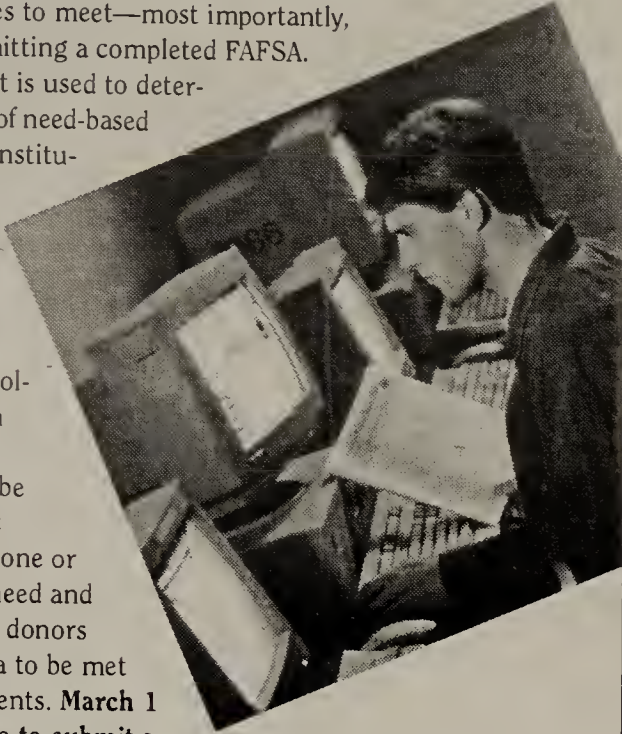
www.calumet.purdue.edu

There, you will find comprehensive financial aid information. You also can access scholarship listings and searches; application information; answers to frequently asked financial aid-related questions; and more!

Further information about financial aid and related services also can be obtained by:

- visiting the Office of Financial Aid, located in the Enrollment Services Center, LAWSHE 130,

- e-mailing the Office at: finaid@calumet.purdue.edu or calling 219/989-2301 or 800/HI-PURDUE, ext. 2301 (just use ext. 2301 from campus phones).



At a glance

around campus

SHRM announces meeting dates

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) meeting dates are as follows: Jan. 30, Feb. 13, March 20, April 3, April 17 and May 1. All meetings will take place in Gyte 108 from 5:15 until 6 p.m.

All students are welcome. If you are unable to attend, but still wish to participate in activities, please e-mail Tony at pucshrmpr@purdue.edu.

Gamers' Guild seeks players

Purdue University Gamers' Guild is seeking new members for the spring semester. PUGG is an organization for students who enjoy role-playing games, such as Dungeons & Dragons, Vampire: The Masquerade and Mage: The Ascension.

Experience is not necessary to play. Students may come to as many games as they choose, dates and times are as follows: Mondays from 6:30-11 p.m., Tuesdays from 6:30-11 p.m., Fridays from 6:30-11 p.m., Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m.

A beginners' night will be held Wednesdays from 9-11 p.m. for students who want to learn how to play or run games.

Further information and locations will be given at a later date. For more information contact President Will Race at lordwill@hotmail.com.

The Chronicle seeks staff members

The Chronicle, PUC's newspaper is looking for photographers and advertising representatives. Experience is preferred, but not required.

For more information on joining *The Chronicle* staff, call Tiffany at 989-2547 or stop by SFLC344-H and request an application.

SGA looks for senators

The SGA would like to remind the student body that senate positions are still available. It is a great leadership opportunity and a good way to get involved with the University.

There are several committees to choose from and maybe one that interests you.

For more information, contact any member of the SGA or stop by the office located at SFLC 324-G.

SGA provides meeting space

The SGA would like to remind the student body that the SGA provides its own senate chambers for any group wishing to assemble.

For more information or to reserve the chamber, please contact any SGA member at 989-2394.

ASME holds monthly meeting

ASME will hold a members meeting on the third floor of the SFLC in Alumni Hall on Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in becoming better acquainted with local industry is welcome. As usual, lunch will be served.

Hoosier Adapt offers Online forum

Hoosier Adapt offers a forum and message board that provides a way to communicate with other students to improve the well being of the disabled community on campus.

The forum is now available at <http://forums.delphi.com/purduestudents/messages/?msg=9.1>. The site is interactive so students can leave messages and their E-mail address.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship hosts information table

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is an organization on campus where you can fellowship with Christians or just learn what Christianity is.

We're always excited to meet new people, Christian or not.

Please stop by our information table in SFLC concourse, Jan. 29 to Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Woodmar Clinic offers health screenings

Woodmar Clinic, a member of Saint Margaret Mercy Medical Associates, offers free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings from 8:30-9:30 a.m., the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

The screenings are held on the lower level of the clinic at 2450 169th St. in Hammond. For more information, call 845-6666.

Quote of the Week

'Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done.'

-Calvin Ellis Stowe
1802-1886

The Chronicle

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Gays, lesbians experience tough treatment in Greek life

U-WIRE

When Susan Kuehl's sorority sisters found out she was a lesbian, they packed her bags and asked her to leave. When John Lee announced his homosexuality, fraternity brothers ransacked his room and left a sign on his bed saying "Faggot go home!"

But according to Shane Windmeyer, co-editor of "Out on Fraternity Row: Personal Accounts of Being Gay in a College Fraternity," and Douglass Case, associate director for fraternity/sorority life at San Diego State University, incidents such as these are rapidly abating.

"Society is becoming less tolerant of homophobic behavior," Windmeyer said.

Case told the Dartmouth College student newspaper that radical changes in societal attitudes toward homosexuality have occurred within the last decade.

Despite such changes, however, according to some experts, obstacles still remain in the social paths of gay greeks. In Case's recent study of greek homosexuals, 70 percent reported homophobic attitudes within their houses.

"Men tend to use homophobia to prove their masculinity," Windmeyer said.

According to Case, within the greek system, the combination of age, the presumption of heterosexuality, and a tendency toward exclusiveness can often cause fraternities and sororities to espouse homophobic attitudes far more exaggerated than those of individual members.

Yet Dartmouth's Coed Fraternity and Sorority Council Adviser Cassie Barnhardt did not allude to such problems here at the College.

"I think that each individual person's experience is unique and there are going to be obstacles for any students in any organization," she said.

Indeed, Barnhardt said greeks

are constantly approaching her with questions about how to make fraternities and sororities more inclusive.

Whether or not Dartmouth is immune to greek homophobia and heterosexism, the recent publication of both Windmeyer's anthology and Case's study suggest that coming out of the closet on fraternity row remains a topic of hot controversy.

Case conjectures that between five and 13 percent of the total membership of greek houses are gay. Once in a house, many are swayed to stay in the closet based on the fear of rejection.

However, their chances of actually being rejected by friends in a greek house have plummeted in recent years.

"The reality is that when gay fraternity men come out, far more often than not, the experience is one of accepting," Case said.

He added that the rate of social rejection of newly outed homosexuals by their fraternity brothers and sorority sisters is just as low as that of being spurned by their own families.

Homophobia is much more rampant during rush, when, without the benefit of knowing the rushees well, greeks are more likely to judge homosexual potential members poorly due to the out-group-homogeneity effect.

Peggy Reeves Sanday, author of "Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood and Privilege on Campus," pointed out the ironic tension between the sexual hazing rituals and heterosexist attitudes that co-exist in some houses can make pledge period uncomfortable for newly accepted gay brothers and sisters.

"The paradox is that in displaying hypermasculinity and hypersexuality they are engaging in homoerotic behavior proving to one another that they are macho," she said.

Yet both Case and Windmeyer emphasized the fact that the situation is improving each year.

"The idea of having a male date at a social function was out the question 10 years ago," Case said.

"I think that each individual person's experience is unique and there are going to be obstacles for any students in any organization,"

Cassie Barnhardt,
Coed Fraternity and Sorority
Council, Dartmouth College

He also said that the practice is now much more commonplace at fraternity events.

Windmeyer's book includes stories of a sorority lesbian whose sisters threw her a coming out party as well as of a fraternity homosexual whose brothers took him out a local gay bar to celebrate his new identity.

However, Windmeyer pointed out that even as students become more enlightened, pressure from alumni and volunteers who run national fraternity and sorority headquarters often perpetuates the expectation that gay greeks must remain hidden.

In the face of such pressure, however, there is much that students and administrators can do to support fraternity brothers, sorority sisters, or non-affiliated friends whom they suspect may be gay.

"What students can do is kind of think about their everyday language," Barnhardt said.

Friends can promote an environment of acceptance both by avoiding homophobic comments and vocally expressing their status as allies to the gay community.

As Case pointed out, not everyone may not know whether or not a friend is gay, and derogatory comments made to an audience assumed to be heterosexual can be devastating to closeted gays, Windmeyer said.

"Visibility is key. If you are straight, and you are comfortable, you need to make yourself visible," he said.

And all three of the experts suggested the introduction of workshops and programs within the greek system itself would be helpful in raising awareness of and actually addressing issues surrounding homosexuality.

Case added that the best way to help a homosexual friend who has recently come out is to openly display endorsement and support.

Pride Alliance

is an organization that unites gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight students at PUC.
Contact: pridally@calumet.purdue.edu
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PUC police beat
1/16/01-1/18/01



Tuesday, Jan. 16, 10:30 a.m. A staff member reported a theft in the Anderson building. A CPU was taken.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1:10 p.m. A false fire alarm was reported by a contractor in the Anderson building. The building was evacuated and the alarm was reset.

Thursday, Jan. 18, 10:45 a.m. A minor accident involving a PUC truck driven by a staff member occurred by the SAS building. The truck struck a support beam while backing up and caused damage to the truck's side view mirror.

Thursday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. A minor traffic accident occurred in the P-9 parking lot south of the SFLC. A moving vehicle was struck by another vehicle that was backing out of a parking space.

New students can prevent adding on 'freshman 15'

U-WIRE

Anyone who enters college is familiar with the phenomenon known as the "freshman 15." With the spring semester newly underway, it is not too late to prevent adding those extra pounds.

There are psychological, social and practical reasons why first-year students have a tendency to gain weight, according to Mary-Ann Jensen, director at the Douglass Office of Psychological Services.

"First-year students have adjustment issues when leaving home to come to a new (environment)," she said.

Students make new friends, academic pressures increase and students settle in to their newfound autonomy, Jensen said.

"So many changes are symptoms of stress. People do so many things (in reaction to stress), and one thing is to overeat," she said.

Food and drink are also used to socialize. Late night snacks in residence halls, pizza at midnight and other food-oriented activities are all ways to be social, Jensen said.

Additionally, first-year students attend more parties than older students, and alcohol contains many carbohydrates, she said.

There are several practical reasons first-year students are prone to weight gain, according to Peggy Policastro, coordinator of the Nutrition Advocates at Hurtado Health Center on the College Avenue campus.

"When students first enter college, there's a variety of foods available to them; it's like a buffet. The dining halls offer 'food favorites' such as pizza and french

fries that are available every day. It's like going out to dinner three times a day," she said.

In addition, there is no limit on portions and the food is already paid for, she said.

However, there are ways to prevent putting on the extra pounds.

"Pick your food choices with care," she said. "Choose foods that are lower in fat, such as grilled instead of fried (foods)."

People may know what to eat, but the "how to eat" it is often

ignored, according to Francie Berg, editor and founder of Healthy Weight Journal. Consequently, Berg established the week of Jan. 21 through Jan. 27 as Healthy Weight Week as a time to celebrate healthy lifestyle habits and to prevent weight and eating problems.

"People should eat three meals a day with one or two snacks in between," Berg said.

"People should also pay attention to their inner signals that tell them when they are hungry and when they are full," she said.

The food pyramid is a good guide of what foods to eat using portion control and moderation, she said.

Other ways to sustain a healthy lifestyle is to exercise, Policastro said.

"Join one of the fitness centers on campus, or walk instead of taking the bus to class," she said.

Furthermore, the nutrition advocates at the Department of Health Education at Hurtado Health Center on the College Avenue campus offer the program "Eating Healthy on Campus," designed to educate students on ways to maintain a healthy diet.

Some better health habits for students

* opt for low-fat foods, such as grilled chicken or salads

* eat three meals a day with 1-2 snacks in between, such as yogurt or fruit

* pay attention to signals of fullness or hunger

* exercise moderately

The Chronicle

est. 1983

Tiffany Amber Sanchez, *editor in chief*
Jade Lee Culberson, *managing editor*
Amy Aurelio, *production manager*

Credibility equals dignity

In these past few weeks, the media has assaulted us with news of Rev. Jesse Jackson's affair and his illegitimate child. Jackson, a community activist with an impressive record of accomplishment of various projects, is now under fire for his indiscretions. We, as an American public, are known for this passive-aggressive form of yellow journalism. In an age where hidden secrets are blown out open in all their ugly glory on everywhere from the ten o'clock news to "The Jerry Springer Show," we are forced to question the credibility of our most esteemed leaders, cultural icons and even our next-door neighbors. It seems, however, that our definitions of credibility waver.

During the Monica Lewinsky trial, we almost threw a president out of office because he lied about his activities with Lewinsky; but when reports continued on, it became inconvenient to worry about the personal life of our president, and all was forgiven.

President George W. Bush would not admit cocaine use from long ago. Former Vice President Gore readily admitted to smoking marijuana in his college days, taking an up-front and honest approach to the sensitive subject. Yet, we elected Bush.

In 1996, Richard Jewell was wrongfully accused of the bombing at the Olympic summer games in Atlanta, Ga. His cherubic face grew more and more haggard each time it splashed across our TV screens. But we were looking for someone to crucify. To date, the FBI is still looking for another man for questioning. However, Jewell, while innocent, will probably always be remembered in connection with the crime.

The New York City police department is notorious for racial profiling, brutality and this past summer, a riot in Central Park where numerous college-age women were groped, taunted and physically assaulted by a horde of young men, in broad daylight. Nearby officers did nothing to halt the situation, even after a woman pleaded for their help. Later, the NYC Police department sat with its tail between its legs and began charging the men they could pick out from the video.

Credibility can be a saving grace. The loss of it, a ticket to limbo, or worse, excommunication. It is a virtue that is tested in relationships, careers, families and in the halls of the University. Imagine if it was revealed that your favorite professor was having an extra-marital affair. Would you be able to give him or her the same respect? Think of a city official who extorts money from hard-working taxpayers. You voted for her. Could you trust her again?

A loss of credibility causes a loss of dignity. However, honesty and careful consideration of what you allow to be public knowledge almost always ensure a strong hold on your credibility. It is so important to consistently match words with actions, or else respect will hang by a thread. We live in a society where we are guilty until innocent. If you cannot maintain your credibility, no one will do it for you.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is noon the Monday before publication.

The People Speak


Gabby O'Connor
freshman, nursing

"No, I have too many classes to worry about and a job."


Lisa Fesko
sophomore, elementary education

"I work for student support services so I am going to help out there. I am also not aware of many of the activities available to me."


Answon Churchwell
junior, finance and accounting

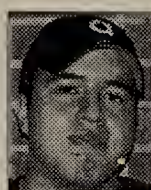
"No, I am really busy. I have school and work. It's crazy already."


Tina Shelby
freshman, political science

"No, I don't have enough time as it is."


Matt Lattyak
sophomore, English

"No, I have a full time job plus I am a full time student."


Daniel Rubalcava
sophomore, RHIT

"Yes, I am involved with Alpha Psi Lambda, the co-ed fraternity. I think more people should get involved. It helps show how well you can get along with others."

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to read your article regarding the SGA's concern regarding the lack of support for the school basketball teams and general lack of school spirit. As a PUC graduate (Jan. 1970), I can tell you that the PUC student government then had the same concerns.

At that time, we had a men's team who played at the Armory. I remember a full gymnasium in a double overtime game. I also remember many dances that were held at that same Armory. Today, PUC has a campus five times the size of that same University 30 years ago. Yet there is still a lack of school spirit. Perhaps it is because you are a commuter campus, but I think its because of lack of consistent leadership emphasizing this aspect of being a student. All of you should be proud that you attend this campus. I am in the construction industry and continuously meet new people. Many of whom have been educated here.

Now my daughter Kelly is being educated at this University. Through her I have become an avid women's basketball fan. I have followed the Lady Lakers to Iowa, Ohio, and all over the Midwest for the last two years. I'm a fan not only because my daughter plays for this team, but also for the enjoyment and inspiration I receive watching these women give their all during a competition.

True, the Lady Lakers have not been having a winning season, but I'm proud of them anyway for their hard work, grit, determination and sportsmanship. Are they good losers? NO! But they bare it with class. How sad your student body was not there to witness our loss to St. Xavier Jan 13. From a 14 point deficit at half time we fought our way back only to lose by one with a successful 3 point shot at the buzzer.

Your students missed the drama, excitement, and inspiration of that moment. And that is their loss. It was some fans from St. Xavier, who consoled our team! Do yourselves a favor and come to the Lady Laker Games. I can't promise we'll win, but I know they'll play hard.

Charles B. Thompson

Tell us what you think



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Students' money goes up in flames



Photo provided by The PUC Photo Club

Phil Orr, a senior majoring in communication with an emphasis in television and radio, smokes outside the Porter building after class.

BRENADETTE HARNEY
Staff Writer

Last spring people complained about the smoking in the doorways, because of the air intake with the smoke. Many non-smokers recognized it as an unhealthy. People realize the consequences of smoking, such as the unhealthy habits and the cost.

Last spring, the campus posted on the doors of buildings here at PUC prohibiting smoking within 50 feet of any doors.

"It is a problem having people stand in the doorways. I think it's only fair that something needs to be done; it's something we can't ignore," Rob Jensen, director of wellness and fitness, said.

Medical research says that 90 percent of the smokers begin smoking in their teens and then may continue for two or more decades. Surveys showed that smokers will die 20-25 years earlier than non-smokers.

In today's business industry, young adults are the growing importance in the cigarette business between the ages of 14-24. For the next 25 years they will account for the total cigarette volume.

Approximately 1,200 people

are killed from tobacco or a tobacco related complication in a single day. An estimate of 400,000 people will be killed from tobacco by the end of 2001.

Many people will average spending over \$1,040 a year on cigarettes. Smoking is recognized to be unhealthy by the Surgeon General and to many students trying to quit is close to impossible. This addiction also costs many people hundreds of dollars a year.

"I would think they spend about \$20 dollars a week on cigarettes," Schanan Cox, sophomore majoring in electrical engineering and computer engineering, said.

"I think it's a waste of money," Rich Brown, a junior majoring in land surveying, said.

Mira Vlahovic, a freshman majoring in business management, said she started smoking five years ago, when she was 12 years old.

"I've tried quitting but when

I get stressed out I need a cigarette," Vlahovic said.

The Wellness Center at PUC provides students with information about smoking programs for those who want to quit smoking.

Tony Tsahas, a senior majoring in construction technology, said that he has smoked for four years and was able to quit for six months.

"I don't smoke when I'm alone," Tsahas said.

Heather Hughes, a sophomore majoring in

English, said that she spends about \$15 a week on cigarettes.

That averages to about \$780 a year. Hughes said she knows it is unhealthy for her to smoke, but addiction keeps her smoking.

"I've thought about quitting, but the most difficult thing is when your friends smoke and the places that you hang out," Hughes said.

"It's a problem having people stand in the doorways. I think it's only fair that something needs to be done,"

Rob Jensen,
director of wellness
and fitness

Bush proposes plan for higher education

U-WIRE

Less than a week into his presidential term, President Bush is getting busy.

On Tuesday, Bush sent a package of education proposals to Congress for approval, including one designed to encourage families to save money for college.

Bush asked Congress to raise the annual cap on contributions to tax-free education-savings accounts that families use to pay for college, from \$500 to \$5,000.

Bush also is asking to expand the savings plans, which now can be used only to pay higher education expenses, so that families can spend money from the accounts on private secondary school tuition.

Bush also called on Congress to provide funds to states and local school districts to form partnerships with colleges to

strengthen math and science instruction in public schools.

Not included in this education package was increased spending on Pell Grants, which White House aides say can be expected when the president presents his 2002 fiscal-year budget proposals to Congress in February.

Adam Hatcher, vice president of the Jefferson Leadership Foundation, a roundtable at the University of Virginia, said he is in favor of the Bush plan.

"I'm excited to see that (Bush) is sticking to the conservative ideas that he has campaigned on and (that) even in his education policy, he's taking power out of Washington and putting it into local and state governments," Hatcher said.

"Though his education program won't fix all the problems in the schools, this is a good start for

his next eight years," he said.

Some university officials, however, are skeptical of the Bush plan. David W. Breneman, dean of the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, said he would prefer to see Bush increase support for Pell Grants. He thinks Bush's plan "is not attacking the most significant problem," low-income families.

"(The education package is) part and parcel of the great drive to help upper-income students," Breneman said.

Yvonne Hubbard, University of Virginia's director of financial aid, said it is important to keep in mind that "anything that helps families save and encourages savings is a good and serious thing."

She also said she was disappointed that Bush may not ask for an increase in Pell Grants.

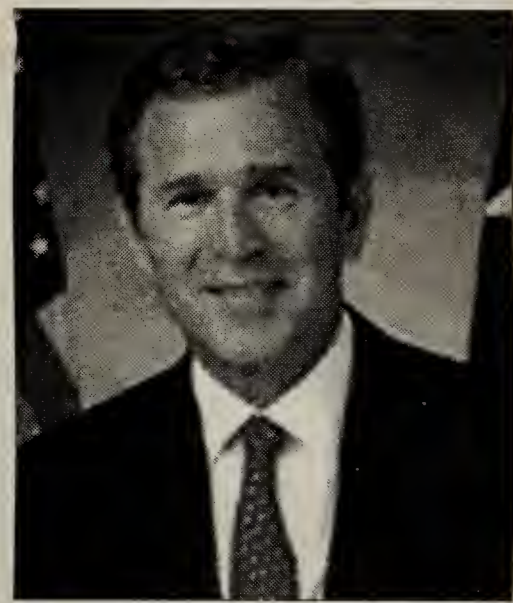
Hubbard pointed out that many

students leave school to start their lives in thousands of dollars worth of debt.

"Needy students may be getting grants, but they are shouldering the debt," she said.

In response to proposals for college-secondary school partnerships for math and science education, Breneman thought they were "philosophically sound." However, he cautioned that they would be hard to implement.

"The devil is in the details," he said.



President George W. Bush hopes to improve U.S. schools with his 8-year education plan.

High-tech employers urge students to get degree

U-WIRE

Bill Gates didn't need one, and Shawn Fanning's was just under way at Northeastern University when he found success.

But despite recruiting efforts aimed at students just out of high school, technology employers maintain a college education is still a critical element necessary for hire in high-tech fields. Even in today's job place, which is becoming more and more computer science-oriented, employers still prefer those with a degree to those without.

Steve Homer, director of undergraduate studies at Boston University, said there have been successful computer scientists that never finished college, but he doesn't recommend that

approach.

"Most high school education's are still way behind. It is better if they have a technological college education," Homer said.

"College provides significant opportunity for broadening oneself beyond specific interests they may have developed in high school," Todd Curlin of Global Interaction, a Web-design company, said.

Although most employers push higher education, it is not as cut-and-dry an issue as college versus

"Most high school education's are still way behind. It is better if they have a technological college education,"

Steve Homer,
director of
undergraduate studies
at Boston University

high school. Curlin has worked with many co-operative students who attend college and every third semester leave to work with companies in their field for three to four months.

Another option is certificate programs. Boston University offers programs that prepare students for entry-level jobs. If you are not interested in college, Homer suggests a certificate degree would be better than just a high school diploma.

However, for the better tech

jobs, employers still look for a higher education diploma.

If you choose to spend your whole life dealing with one aspect of computer technology, like Microsoft Word for example, then a high school education is fine. However, in a job market where information is being updated and advanced all the time, "few and far between are satisfied in mastering and sticking with one

skill," Homer said.

Andres Campeanu, creative director of AT Media, said his company prefers a college education, but emphasized there remain numerous job opportunities available in the computer science field where a college education is not necessary.

"I would not hire a high school student that could not work every-day. We are looking for people who can work long hours. Scheduling availability is important to us but that is our individual choice," Campeanu said.

"College provides significant opportunity for broadening oneself beyond specific interests they may have developed in high school,"

Todd Curlin of Global Interaction, a Web-design company

'Queer as Folk' kicks stereotypes out of the closet

MAX BUCZYNSKI
News Editor

Challenging the lack of diverse programming on network television, Showtime has come up with an entertaining depiction of a subject matter that continues to be taboo even for cable television.

"Queer as Folk" is an eight part series that is both an entertaining and controversial representation of the lives of young homosexuals in a major city. The first episode, which ran for 90 minutes, introduced a small clique of people living in Pittsburgh who are diverse in their style of living but are brought together by one main issue; their sexual orientation.

This eclectic show brings together an interesting mix of characters. Justin is a 17-year-old boy who finds himself torn between his sexuality and his family's views. After a brief encounter at the club "Babylon," Justin develops an infatuation with another title character, Brian.

Brian is in his late 20s and works for a prestigious company in Pittsburgh. In the first episode we learn that Brian becomes a father by donating his sperm to Lindsay and together they have a son, Gus. Lindsay's loud-mouthed, over-bearing girlfriend, Melanie plays a major role in the relationship between Brian and Lindsay and Brian and Gus.

Michael is Brian's best friend. They have known each other since they were in their teens yet they have never

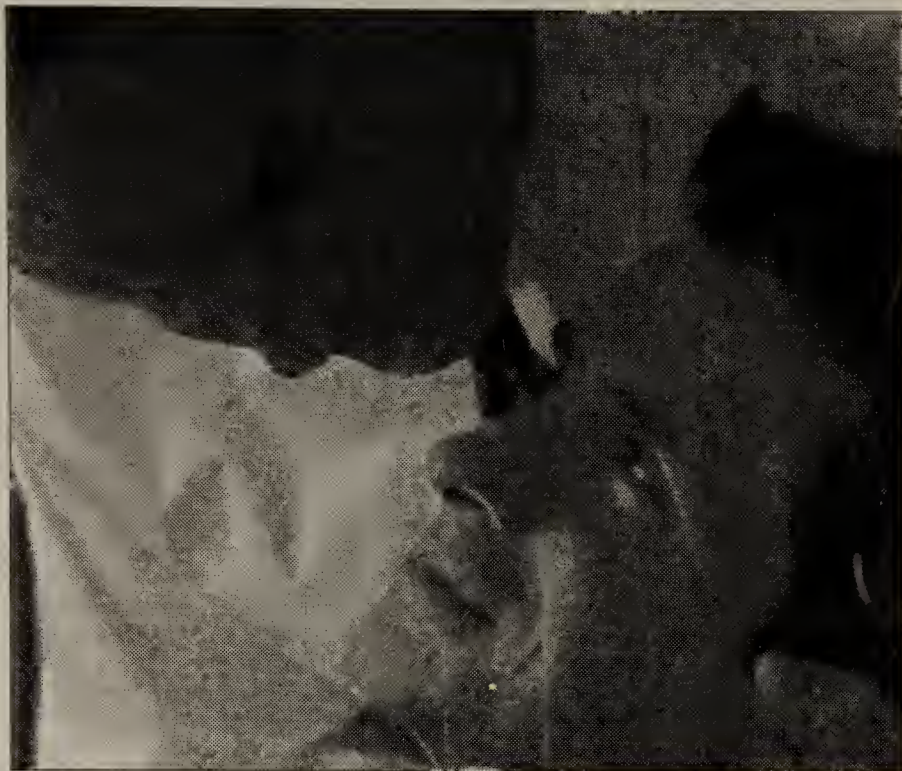
been intimate. Michael works at a Wal-Mart style store where he is not openly gay. He is the shy type who never gets the guy, and if he does, Brian soon steals him away. Debbie is Michael's mother. She

is dealing with the fact that her son is gay in a very ideal manner. Instead of rejecting her son, she embraces him and his friends and is proud of him as a person no matter what his lifestyle is. To emphasize this point, she is employed at a restaurant on the gay strip.

The "Queer as Folk" episodes are filled with hard-hitting scenes like that of Justin's mother addressing his sexuality. After finding non-offensive pictures of men in her sons' room, she asks Justin if he has a boyfriend. In reaction to her surprising question, Justin slams on his brakes, gets out of the car, and runs to his friend's house in a panic.

The gist of the series is best stated in the opening disclaimer: "Queer as Folk" is a celebration of the lives and passions of a group of gay friends. It is not meant to reflect all of gay society. Although one of the story lines involve an underage character, all principal performers are adults."

"Queer as Folk" will elicit one of two emotions from people, either sheer delight or extreme hatred. Whichever emotion you feel, this show will definitely leave a distinct



Chris Potter (above) and Hal Sparks (below) portray David and Michael, a couple on Showtime's "Queer as Folk."

TV Series	"Queer as Folk"
Actor	Hal Sparks
Rating	10 of 10

Ritchie makes nasty 'Snatch' a slick ride

JAMES E. LACZKOWSKI
Staff Writer

Let us pretend that I have not seen 1998's cult UK import, "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels." I would immediately deem "Snatch" as the work of an original, innovative filmmaker. However, is it possible to separate a director's previous work from the next? Despite the identical plot, execution and overall visual style, can one detach the debut from the sophomore effort?

Apparently not. Most of the reviews for "Snatch" have been quite unfavorable. Most critics seem to judge director Guy Ritchie's second attempt as a heist picture and as a rehash of his first flick.

Am I going to deny the fact that "Snatch" is essentially "Lock, Stock 2" with Brad Pitt and Benicio Del Toro? Heck no. All I can say is that newcomers who have yet to see "Lock, Stock" can easily enjoy "Snatch" as an alternative. They are both very similar, but I think Ritchie is moving up instead of regressing.

He is definitely no Quentin Tarantino, although he aspires to be. At least Quentin made a HUGE step forward by going from "Reservoir Dogs" to "Pulp Fiction." If you enjoyed those films immensely, then there is a good chance you will enjoy "Snatch." It is also very much like "Trainspotting" with an even better soundtrack.

Practically every frame is stapled with Tarantino elements. However, Ritchie, who uses the screen like a night-clubbing speed freak, creates such vivid imagery with such relentless energy that the recycled plot can be forgiven.

There are shots in the film where I was left in awe, even if they were already



Brad Pitt stars in Guy Ritchie's follow-up, "Snatch."

revealed in "Lock, Stock." It is hard to imagine these shots being in anything else but a music video, but for the kind of environment that Ritchie creates, it succeeds.

This is fast-paced with a capital "F," where everyday is manic and mad, and everybody is after somebody or something. So, of course, most of it takes place in London.

That particular "something" that everyone is after in this particular story is no surprise. It is a 84-carat diamond that is supposed to be delivered to the States through the

hands of an expert thief/compulsive gambler played by Benicio Del Toro (on a role after "Traffic" and "The Pledge").

Of course, it is a botched robbery that goes from bad to worse, where everybody confronts everybody in hopes of gratifying their greed. Everyone who is after it seems to work for some kind of

mob boss, and if they do not retrieve it, they'll be as dead as disco.

The plot jumps around, spins and twists, and feels like a sick, bloody circus with unintelligible accents accompanied by loads of profanity. I will not deny that the plot is convoluted, but the main idea is this: did I have a good time watching it? Absolutely. Can I explain why? Uh, no.

It's hard to explain because I've seen this type of movie nine million times by now,

including the director's previous work. Maybe it was the inclusion of Brad Pitt as a boxer and Del Toro as a compulsive gambling thief. Maybe it was the hip, quick, vulgar dialogue.

Essentially, the film is a celebration and glorification of both greed as well as masculinity. Nothing is simple (especially burglary), everything is complex, and it's fun to watch every single unlikable character get himself mixed up in bizarre situations (Especially the ones involving a dog with a tendency to swallow things).

Just about every word uttered in "Snatch" is politically incorrect and offensive. It will not appeal to the voters of George W.

Bush or Bob Dole. I hate to generalize but I definitely wouldn't recommend it to the elderly. It's not heartwarming or something you go to see for deep, profound thought. It's just a violent, loud, insane, dumb action picture with lots of incredible directorial novelty, a sick sense-of-humor and Brad Pitt spouting off incoherent banter.

When you leave the theater, you leave with it, without any real lingering thought except "damn, that was cool." Sometimes, that's all you need to constitute an enjoyable time at the movies.

Also, the fact that it clocks in at 105 minutes (unlike most films made nowadays) makes the pace fly by like a cheetah. And despite its similarities in tone and execution to both "Lock, Stock" and Tarantino's work, I still stand by the fact that "Snatch" is the work of an original and innovative filmmaker... who also happens to be Madonna's husband. Be forewarned: if you are prone to dizzying headaches or hate explicit violence, this bud's not for you.



Local pawnshop owners and their plump getaway driver Tyrone (Ade), Sol (Lennie James), a dog and Vinny (Robbie Gee) attempt a getaway in "Snatch."

Movie	"Snatch"
Actor	Brad Pitt
Rating	8 of 10

Lack of surprise undermines 'The Gift'

JAMES E. LACZKOWSKI
Staff Writer

There is a moment, midway through this film, where a flashback sequence reveals whether or not an accused murderer (Keanu Reeves) killed a young socialite (Katie Holmes).

If you aren't able to figure out by then what has happened, then you must suffer from cinematic attention deficit disorder. This is one of those movies where everything is practically spelled out for you, and it's very easy to follow.

Not that there is anything wrong with that. Every now and then, it is nice to leave your brain at your door and partake in some pure escapism that doesn't involve any deep thought whatsoever.

However, the only real problem to unravel in "The Gift" is the lack of a surprise, which is truly unfortunate. For most of its running time, "The Gift" is a compelling piece of old-fashioned Southern Gothic, with a pinch of Hitchcock mystery thrown in for good measure. The plot is as simple as they come. A girl is missing. All fingers are pointed at one man. The girl turns up dead. The man is wrongfully accused. Then, the rest of the film tries to comprise a whodunit ingredient, and that's where the film slowly falls downward.

What does set "The Gift" apart from being a Hollywood-standard piece of storytelling is the fact that the murder revolves around a psychic. The psychic is played to perfection by the infallible Cate Blanchett (Oscar nominee for "Elizabeth").

Blanchett is one of the best actresses working today, who can even brighten even the lamest script ("Pushing Tin") with her chameleon-like transformations. She also has composure and charisma to boot.

Blanchett is the core of the movie, and she holds it together amongst the overwhelming clichés that inhabit several scenes throughout. She plays Annie Wilson, a widowed mother of three who lost her husband in an accidental explosion while he was at work. She's haunted by his death.

During one scene she's confronted for having the gift of psychic premonition and yet she couldn't prevent his untimely demise. This is an interesting idea, as was including a bizarre subplot involving a mentally unstable mechanic (Giovanni Ribisi). It's hard to say why this was included in the movie, but works because of the characterization presented within the first 20 minutes.

Since this takes place in southern Georgia, it is ripe with a few too many clichés for my taste. There's the dimwitted cop whose only interest is in donuts and coffee. The battered wife and her redneck husband; the country club sexpot who later becomes the victim; the handsome school

principal. There are ponds, and courtroom sequences, as well as cheating lawyers and incestuous fathers.

Well, at least this isn't as slow as "Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil," another film that takes place in Georgia.

For the most part, all of it works up to a point. The real foundation of the film is built on solid performances by extremely reliable supporting characters. Most will recognize names like Hilary Swank (Oscar winner for "Boys Don't Cry"), Greg Kinnear, Reeves, Holmes, and others. But few seem to recognize Gary Cole, who is another terrific character-actor who always fits the shoe perfectly. (Here he plays the cheating attorney.)

Also, hardly anyone seems to notice bright newcomer Kim Dickens who plays Annie's flirtatious best friend with a real passion for men who resemble Antonio Banderas.

Dickens has had her missteps ("Hollow Man"), but her standout remains her debut performance as the romantic interest/co-conspirator in the hugely underappreciated 1998 release "Zero Effect." I have a feeling that someday, hopefully, she'll start earning some accolades.

Everybody does a superb job with a script that really could've used some rewrites. (Oddly enough it was written by Billy Bob Thornton, writer of "Sling Blade" and hubby to

Angelina Jolie.) The identity of the murderer is too obvious and as a result, the mystery dissipates, thus it struggles to find a satisfying resolution.

Personally, I saw it coming a mile away.

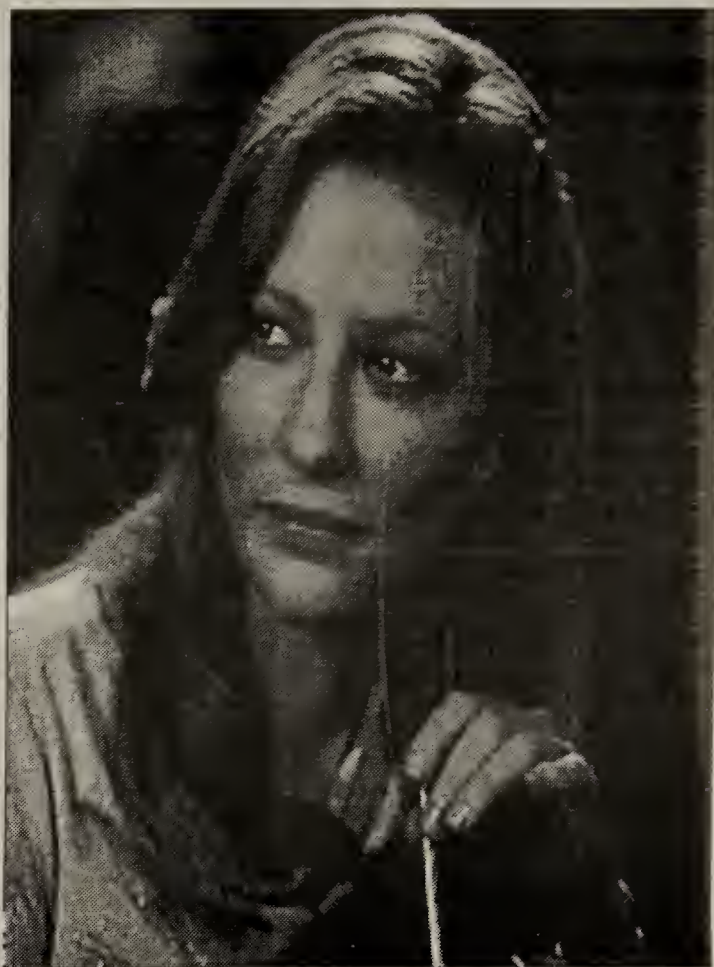
The reason I was unaffected by the ending could very well be because I've been conditioned to expect a surprise ending thanks to "The Sixth Sense." The twist at the end is the true weak link in an otherwise perfectly paced genre picture that proves even further of how extraordinarily talented Cate Blanchett is.

Katie Holmes branches out nicely, stripping away that whole innocent exterior of Joey on "Dawson's Creek."

But the real surprise is Keanu Reeves. He proves that he can actually act when he chooses a role that doesn't force him to look stoned or act dumb.

Finally, I have to sing the immortal praises of director Sam Raimi. I have been asked on several occasions who is greatest film director working today, and my answer has remained the same for about eight years now: It's Sam.

He is always able to maintain an amazing visual flair and a keen sense of everything that goes on in a scene.



Golden Globe winner Cate Blanchett plays a psychic involved in a grisly murder in "The Gift."

Without a doubt, he knows how to cut, frame, dissolve, and use weird camera angles like a mad painter.

He can take any story, whether it be a cheesy romantic sports flick ("For The Love Of The Game"), a slick Western-homage ("The Quick And The Dead"), a gory exploitation horror movie ("Evil Dead 2") or a goofy, medieval knights in armor slapstick action-pic ("Army Of Darkness") and make it his own. His greatest achievement to date is still 1998's best film, "A Simple Plan," which is just about as perfect as any movie can get.

Sam Raimi sticks to his guns yet again by slapping on his cool directorial trademark on "The Gift," but the script keeps it from becoming something really great.

However, if you are an avid film buff who loves to watch a flawless director strut his stuff amongst some truly "gifted" actors, then it's worth venturing out to see.

Jimmy K's will make the day

LORRELL D. KILPATRICK
Entertainment Editor

It is about 1:30 in the afternoon and you have just escaped from the depths of a two and a half-hour lecture class. The prospect of digesting calories and cholesterol via cafeteria food is just too overwhelming today, so you desperately search for a lunch sanctuary. But where, oh, where is there a place that is close, inexpensive and worth giving up a decent parking spot in the SFLC lot?

The answer to this question is in Hammond on 6949 Indianapolis Blvd. Jimmy K's Hot Dogs provides an extensive menu from a gyros platter that includes double pita bread, fries and a drink for \$5.69, to either a two hot dog or two corn dog special costing only \$2.99.

This hidden jewel of a restaurant has become a frequent asylum for the ravenously starved high school and college student alike. The parking lot is on the side of the building, which makes for an easy entrance, and runs into an alley that leads to 169th Street, which makes for an easy exit and allows you to avoid some of the lunchtime traffic going back to PUC.

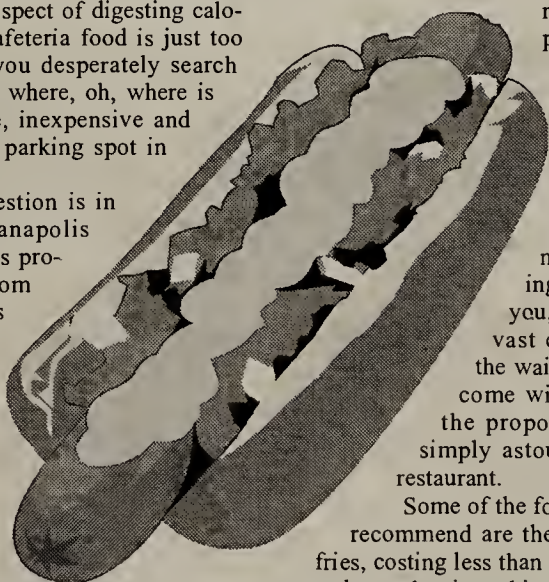
The atmosphere inside is a little smoky when your

food first hits the grill, but when it is in your mouth you breathe much easier.

There are four seated tables in the middle of the room and a lengthy bench for those who prefer that "Cheers"-type environment. It's a nice place to eat if you don't want to rush back to campus or your job right away.

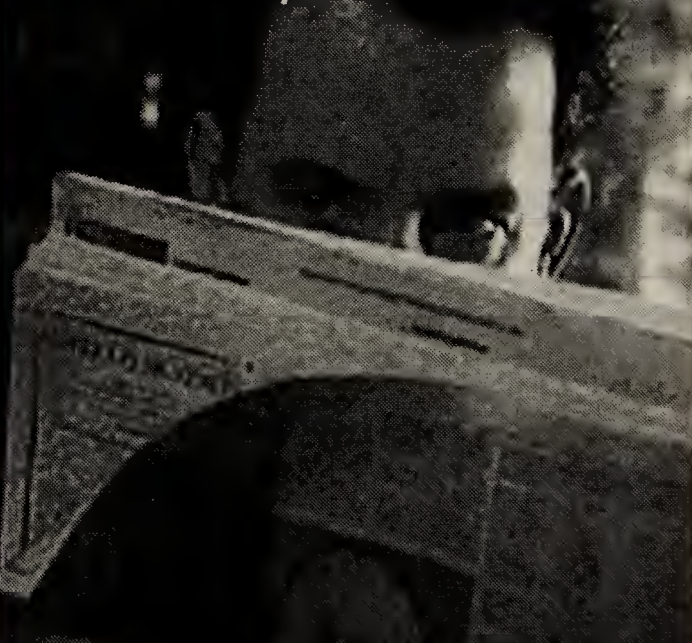
If you were to walk into Jimmy K's in the early afternoon, you would find a nice-sized crowd waiting for the same thing as you, but the affordable and vast options make it worth the wait. Also, all sandwiches come with fries, which makes the proportion of food you get simply astounding for a fast food restaurant.

Some of the food choices that I would recommend are the chili cheese dog with fries, costing less than \$3, and the chicken fingers platter that is so big it makes you reminisce about Foghorn Leghorn. This little piece of heaven in Hammond is a refreshing alternative to the infinite number of burger joints and truck stops that seem to pop up in this area like industry plants. So, for a good time call 844-0965, or just make a right on Indianapolis Boulevard coming from 173rd Street, and I promise, it is well worth it.



Restaurant	Jimmy K's Hot Dogs
Price	\$1.69-5.69
Rating	7 of 10

What would Tom Hanks be doing if he wasn't earning 20 million a picture?



He probably wouldn't be writing for The Chronicle, but you should!

Call 989-2547
Ask for Tiffany or Jade Lee

Lakers play hard in face of defeat

■ St. Xavier holds on to beat Lakers

BOB GRANTZ
Staff Writer

The Lakers fought hard but came up short against St. Xavier University at home on Saturday Jan. 20. The game ended with number 15 ranked St. Xavier on top 88-77.

The game started out at a fast pace, with both teams scoring almost right away. The pace stayed pretty much even until St. Xavier pulled away midway through the first half. Their lead grew to as much as 14 points.

PUC was not going to throw in the towel, though. They rallied to cut St. Xavier's lead to only one point, which lasted until shortly before the end of the half. St. Xavier broke out before the half to a 42-35 lead, which ended up as the halftime score.

During halftime, the SGA sponsored a 3-point-shooting contest. The person who won the contest was to receive \$100. Former Laker Harold Jones won the contest, sinking five 3-point shots.

"I felt we didn't carry out our game plan. We wanted to cut off (St. Xavier's) Juan Fulgencio and make St. Xavier play our game,"

*Dion Banks,
Lakers Guard*

PUC came out more aggressive in the second half, keeping-up on St. Xavier's pace and not letting up, as the Lakers weren't going down without a fight. Center Ronnie Nixon missed a shot, then fought through the St. Xavier defense to tip in his own

missed shot. Tom Cuozzo sank a basket while off-balance between two Cougar defenders.

Ray Stringer led the Lakers in scoring with 17 points. In a close second and third was Cuozzo with 16 and Nixon with 15. Nixon tied with Andrew Hall for most rebounds with four as the Lakers combined

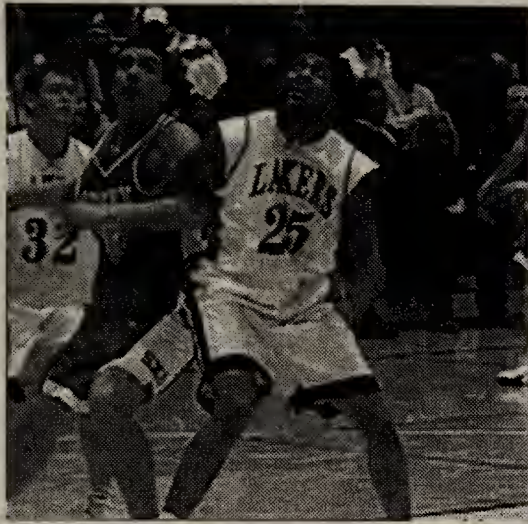


Photo provided by The PUC Photo Club

Ron Nixon, #25, a junior center, locks up with a St. Xavier player as he anticipates a rebound.

for 25 total rebounds.

Both Dion Banks and Brian Anton were 100 percent from the free-throw line and the team as a whole shot 13-20 from the line.

Despite the aggressive play and never-die effort put out by the Lakers, Banks said that he felt the game did not go as planned.

"I felt we didn't carry out our game plan. We wanted to cut off (St. Xavier's) Juan Fulgencio and make St. Xavier play our game. We wanted to go out and defend our home, no one likes to lose at home," Banks said.

Hall also felt that the game, though competitive, could have been better.

"It was a tough game. It hurt because we did not play up to our capability," Hall said.

With the loss to St. Xavier, the Lakers season record falls to an even 10-10 overall.



Photo provided by The PUC Photo Club

Brian Anton, 20 and Eric Sexton, 32 discuss defensive strategies during the Jan. 20 home game against St. Xavier University. The Lakers lost 88-77.

Jensen approaches points to good health

RACHEL RIECKEN
Staff Writer

Rob Jensen, director of fitness and wellness at the Total Fitness Center, gave a talk this past Wednesday called "Changing for the Good: Moving Ahead Positively." He discussed both the meaning of "good health" and the process of changing habits to improve health.

It can be difficult to find time to exercise, especially while adjusting to hectic schedules at the beginning of a semester. However, it may be worth the effort. According to "Healthy Approaches," a handout by WorkCare Press, that was passed out at the seminar, "exercise is one of the best things you can do for yourself when you're feeling stressed. It calms the nerves, counteracts depression, and boosts your energy."

The meaning of good health has changed over the past fifteen years from not being sick to a lifestyle that promotes optimal health and disease prevention.

PUC Total Fitness Center will offer a 5K Run/Walk seminar Feb. 7. Call 989-2175 for more information

Optimal health is different for everyone. It simply means whatever is optimal for each person.

Imagine a hill with "wellness" at the top and "illness" at the bottom. Not making an effort to improve one's health, will allow it to slide down this hill.

"You can't choose to stay neutral," Jensen said.

"You can't choose to stay neutral,"

**Rob Jensen,
Director of Fitness
and Wellness**

Jensen presented useful steps on how to make positive changes, using "The Steps of Change Theory."

This theory goes from thinking about the possibility of exercising, to developing a plan of attack to, successfully achieving that plan, despite occasional setbacks. Jensen did not focus on scaring the listeners into vigorous exercise programs. This method is not effective for long-term change.

Jensen emphasized the importance of practically fitting an exercise program into weekly schedules. This requires leaving enough time for other important activities like sleeping. Less important activities may need to be eliminated.

"Something has to give," Jensen said. The next seminar in this series offered at The Center is called "Training to Run/Walk: PUC's 5K Spring Fling."

This seminar will be held on February 7 at 7 p.m. It is free but registration is required and can be done by calling the Total Fitness Center at (219) 989-2175 or by stopping by their desk.

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